

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A contact piece comprising a tungsten overlay (1) soldered onto a metallic support (3) by a solder layer (2), characterized in that wherein at least portions of the solder layer (2) and optionally the support (3) are covered by a layer of a metal tin (4) which is less noble than tungsten.

2. (currently amended) The contact piece as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the layer of ~~the less noble metal~~ tin (4) is 0.1 to 20 μm thick.

3. (currently amended) The contact piece as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the layer of ~~the less noble metal~~ tin (4) is 0.2 to 2 μm thick.

4 and 5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method for the preparation of a contact piece as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, comprising

a) providing a contact piece comprising a tungsten overlay (1) soldered onto a metallic support (3) by a solder layer (2); and

b) applying a layer of tin a less noble metal than tungsten is applied onto the contact piece and subsequently base metal which may be present on the tungsten overlay is removed in a manner so that the layer of tin does not physically cover the tungsten to be protected.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the layer of tin is applied via electroplating.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 6 or 7, characterized in that~~ claim 6, wherein the base metal layer of tin is applied selectively onto the solder and the metallic support.

9. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 6 to 8,~~ characterized in that claim 6, wherein the tungsten is initially covered by the layer of

tin, and then is re-exposed by a subsequent step of removal of the layer of tin re-exposure of the tungsten overlay is carried out by sliding grinding.

10. (currently amended) ~~Use of the contact piece as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 as a horn contact or a relay contact~~ The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the tungsten is re-exposed by a sliding grinding step.

11. (new) A horn comprising the contact piece of claim 1.

12. (new) An electromechanical switching device comprising the contact piece of claim 1.

13. (new) A method of manufacture of a horn, comprising assembly of horn components that include the contact piece of claim 1.

14. (new) A method of manufacture of an electromechanical switching device, comprising assembly of electromechanical switching device components that include the contact piece of claim 1.